

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 25TH JULY 2003

PRESENT

Mr Mackin presided over Mesdames Harrison, Warwick, Collins and Holmes, Messrs. Fisher, Fletcher, Dear, Wren, Blake and Coward, County Councillor Mr. Younger and District Councillors Messrs. Brown and Chapman.

1. APOLOGIES

District Councillor Mr. Birt and PC Battams.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting were confirmed and signed

3. MATTERS ARISING

Nothing that won't be covered in Committee reports.

4. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

4.1 At a recent meeting with senior managers of the Paramedic Ambulance Service it was stated that funding had been approved for seven twelve-hour shifts in each week. Although the managers said that their preferred site would be Henlow, it does seem that Shefford will have a fast response Para-medical service for the foreseeable future as the facilities at the Fire Station make it an attractive option. Clerk to write to Chief Executive of the Service thanking them for facilitating the meeting.

4.2 At a briefing of the Police Central Division it was stated that arrests were up by 32%, detection was up 40% and that Mid Beds had the lowest crime per 1000 population. Unfortunately, however, violent crime and burglary statistics have increased.

4.3 Clerk to write to Chairman of Clifton Parish Council to congratulate them on winning 'The Village of the Year' competition.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

5.1 Letter received from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister regarding the New Ethical Framework in relation to allegations of alleged misconduct by Councillors.

5.2 Letter from Mid Beds D C giving their intranet site for the Constitution.
www2.midbeds.gov.uk

5.3 Beds C C (Babtie Group) have given notice that V E Parrott Ltd will commence work on the construction of parking bays at Great Hill on 4th August with a duration time of four weeks.

- 5.4 Letter from Mid Beds D C regarding Community Resilience Against Flooding asking for information from the Town Council as to the availability of both filled and empty sandbags and also where dry sand can be stored in Shefford. Clerk to reply.
- 5.5 From Beds C C enclosing questionnaire on the Bedfordshire Outdoor Access Improvement Plan. This is to be forwarded to the P3 Group.
- 5.6 Letter from the Minister for Rural Affairs and Urban Quality of Life stating that a progress report is now available on how standards in rural communities are monitored and what services such people can expect.
- 5.7 Wicksteed Leisure have sent information on The Disability Discrimination Act which comes into force on 1st October 2004 in relation to outdoor public play areas.
- 5.8 Letter from Mid Beds Local Strategic Partnership enclosing a consultation draft of the Mid Beds Community Plan. This is in response to the Local Government Act 2000 which places certain duties on local authorities. A working party is to be formed – Mrs. Holmes, Mrs. Collins, Mr. Gray and Mr. Coward.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

The following reports were adopted :

Planning and Environment	2.7.2003 and 16.7.2003-07-30
Services and Maintenance	16.7.2003
Policy and Finance	16.7.2003-07-30

7. COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

This was given by Mr. Younger

8. DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

This was given by Messrs. Brown and Chapman

9. ACCOUNTS

Accounts as listed in the Minute book were approved for payment

10. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The question of missing padlocks on the town bollards was raised. It was stated that these have been damaged and cannot be replaced but new bollards are on order.

It was reported that there had recently been a spate of break-ins in various retail outlets. The possibility of a further CCTV camera was discussed although it seems that at the present time there is no funding available. District Councillor Chapman stated he would make further enquiries.

It was decided to write a letter to the Chairman of Clifton Parish Council to discuss a possible get-together regarding such matters as the increased traffic flow that will inevitably result around the area of Samuel Whitbread College due to proposed housing developments and the eventual intake of four hundred more pupils to the College.

It has been brought to the Town Council's attention that there is concern about the difficulty experienced by both emergency and private vehicular traffic being able to drive along Bloomfield Drive at such times when there has been a school outing that returns to the school by coach in the early evening. The congestion caused puts public safety at risk. Clerk to write to the Head Teacher to express the Council's concerns.

The meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.
